NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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A Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS is so near at hand that we are sending you this BULLETIN a bit earlier than usual in order to avoid the holiday rush.

May we reiterate the ever-new Christmas theme of "Peace on earth, good will toward men," and express our sincere wish for each one of you—*A Very Merry Christmas.*

It is fitting at this season, when we are celebrating the birthday of the Christ child, that we should be looking forward to celebrating soon the birthday of the organization which in its early days adopted His words as its motto: "A Little Child Shall Lead Them."

Our National President reminds us:

"Our purposes are all built around the child and nothing can take from us the glow of beauty which arises from the vision of a better happier childhood in the nation. If we needed a higher inspiration, it comes to us at this Christmas tide when all the world rejoices because a child is born."

Education Secretary Resigns Because of Health

OUR MEMBERS all over the country will join us in the deepest regret that Mrs. Arthur C. Watkins, on the advice of her physician, has resigned from the service, to take effect immediately, the first of December. With characteristic courage, Mrs. Watkins has said nothing about a painful arthritis from which she has suffered for several years apparently, and which now prevents her continuing in her service to the Congress.

Mrs. Watkins has been with us for fifteen years, first as secretary to Mrs. Schoff when she was president, then as executive secretary for ten years. As expansion of the office came, she served as education secretary, with part-time in the field. There is no state which has not received inspiration and instruction from Mrs. Watkins, either in the state or through correspondence, and there will be no part of the country where sympathy will not be felt for her in her inability to continue the work.

The Executive Committee particularly, from each one of whom I have had telegrams, express great regret at her inability to carry on the work, together with deep appreciation of the years of faithful service that she has rendered to the cause. We all hope that the rest which she desires may restore her to her usual health.

MARY L. LANGWORTHY,
President.

New Chairman of Juvenile Protection

JUDGE Mary Bartelme, of Carmel, California, has accepted the chairmanship of the Juvenile Protection Committee of the National Congress. She succeeds Miss Alida Bowler, who resigned last September. Judge Bartelme was formerly Judge of the Chicago Juvenile Court and is widely known for her highly progressive social methods.

To Stop a Rumor

An unfounded rumor has reached our ears to the effect that the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* is to be combined with another magazine in the near future, or is going out of business. *This is NOT true!* The *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* is the *only* official *Magazine* of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. It is not going to be combined with another magazine, nor is it going out of business. In fact, the opposite is the case! The *Magazine* is being improved with each issue and the editors are planning now—with the enthusiastic support and cooperation of all local parent-teacher associations—to make the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* of constantly increasing service to parents and teachers.

Men Members

How to interest fathers in the parent-teacher program, how to get them to accept office, and attend meetings is a perennial question. A father writing in the December issue of the *Kentucky Education Journal* has this to say on the subject:

"If the fathers during each month spent ten percent of the time in parent-teacher work that they waste in picking up gossip about the poor piece of teaching the faculty is doing, they would know much more about their schools, and their sons and daughters would be much happier and better children. Too often fathers take very little time in directing, leading, and encouraging their children, but spend many hours during the month admonishing their children if things go wrong at school. To avert the necessity for admonishing, they should keep in close contact with their schools through the parent-teacher association. The contact with both parents will help the teacher to understand the child, and therefore be able to do a better job of teaching him. If American parents knew more about their schools they would say less against them.

"The welfare of children is a joint enterprise of both father and mother. It is a conceded fact that the parent-teacher association is practically the only social group to which the school personnel and the tax-supporting citizens can turn to work out the great problems confronting our public schools. Therefore it is important and necessary that more fathers attend these meetings and take part in the programs."

First Lady Urges Teamwork

An appeal for parents and teachers to "get together and work for our young people" was sounded by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at the opening session of the fourth biennial conference of the National Council of Parent Education. Excerpts from her address:

"Adolescent youth of today is probably having the hardest time of any generation of young people that we can remember. The other afternoon I went to a meeting where I heard young people saying certain things which should give pause to us as teachers and as parents, because the world by which they are so bewildered is a world which we have tolerated. . . . .

"When a group of young people representing colleges, labor groups, and various character building organizations tell us, for example, that their teachers urge them to live up to certain ethical standards, and then tell them, almost in the same breath, that they will find these standards impossible to live up to in practical life, we cannot wonder that the youngsters are bewildered. . . . .

"Unless teachers and parents—and I have always thought this the most important combination in the country—can get together and work for the same ends, we are never going to succeed in giving these young people what they should have. . . . . There are questions which bear upon the building of character which I think can be resolved only through the close working together of the teachers and parents, and I think that this building of character is more important than knowledge, more important even than the equipment which we give our children for earning a living, because if they have the right kind of character the other things will come—they will find for themselves the answers to other questions.

"Education today is not purely a question of the education of youth; it is a question of the education of parents, because so many parents, I find, have lost their hold on their children. . . . .

"My own feeling would be that the most important education is the education which will enable us, both in our homes and in our schools, to understand the real problems that our children have to meet today. It is easy enough to impart book knowledge, but it is not so easy to build up the relationship between youth and older people which is essential to the working out of their problems."

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The 1935 meeting of the World Federation of Education Associations will be held next August in England either in Oxford or Cambridge. Complete announcement will be ready soon. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Federation of Teachers' Associations (European-elementary) and the Bureau International de L'Enseignement Secondaire, looking to a more complete consolidation or coordination of these great international societies working to the same end.

Mrs. Langworthy Honored

Music, flowers, and spoken tributes were but the symbols of the confidence, loyalty, and affectionate comradeship felt for Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, as expressed by Chicago's civic and educational leaders and members of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers at a banquet given late in October by the Illinois Branch to honor its National President.

Nearly 300 citizens gathered to express their loyalty to their fellow-citizen who had accepted this high honor and deep responsibility.

Men and women who had worked with Mrs. Langworthy in the interest of Chicago affairs came to pay her splendid tribute and to congratulate the National Congress upon having acquired her leadership. Mrs. Arthur R. Williams, President, Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, presided, and the following gave toasts to Mrs. Langworthy:

William J. Bogan, Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools; Mrs. Mark P. Mears, President, Woman's City Club of Chicago; Mrs. Wm. S. Hefferan, member Chicago Board of Education; Mrs. Harry L. Fleming, former President, Illinois Congress; Emily Neuman, Director Cook County Training School for Nurses; Fred A. Moore, of the Adult Education Council of Chicago; Joseph M. Artman, Executive Secretary, Religious Education Association; Mrs. L. Cass Brown, Illinois and National Congress Parliamentarian.

Messages were read from Jane Addams, of Hull House; Henry Horner, Governor of Illinois; Charles H. Judd, Professor of Education, University of Chicago; Walter Dill Scott, President, Northwestern University; Edna Dean Baker, National College of Education; Carleton Washburne, Superintendent of Winnetka Schools, and Mrs. Orville T. Bright.

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A parent-teacher section meeting will be conducted at the Convention of the Department of Superintendence in Atlantic City on Wednesday afternoon, February 27, 1935, at 2:15 P. M. The section will be under the auspices of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The program plans will be announced as soon as they are completed.

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Mrs. B. F. Langworthy has been invited by Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings to participate in the National Crime Conference to be held in Washington, December 10-13.

Homemaking Committee Stresses Nutrition

Dr. Adelaide S. Baylor, National Chairman of Homemaking, in a recent letter to state homemaking chairmen, suggests that the following points be emphasized this year:

1. Health with special attention to nutrition, including adequate milk supply for all. There is a growing feeling in the country that too little milk is being consumed by both youth and adults. This feeling is undoubtedly given much credence from a preliminary report showing the widespread under-consumption of milk that was recently submitted from Dr. Frederic C. Howe, Consumers' Counsel, Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The following is quoted from the Press Release relative to this report:

"The report covered the largest survey of its kind ever undertaken. Conducted in 59 cities in 46 states, the survey collected data from 29,485 families, including 160,010 persons. Of this number 78,987 were children and 81,032 adults. * * *

"Of the total 29,485 families included in the survey more than 14 percent reported that they bought no fresh milk at all.

"Average purchases of fresh milk by all of these families amounted to less than .6 of a pint percapita daily.

"The average family of 5.44 persons in the survey purchased 1.37 quarts of fresh milk a day or 501.16 quarts a year. Its daily percapita purchases of fresh milk amounted to .52 of a pint.

"The average percapita purchases including both fresh milk and evaporated milk are found to be very low when compared with the milk quantities specified by the typical diets prepared by the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture. * * *"

2. Expanding and deepening the appreciation of the importance of the home as an agency for national welfare.

3. Provision for consumer education at all economic levels in order to improve consumer practices and aid "consumption" to assume its proper place as a foremost agency in the recovery.

4. Devising ways and means for supplying unemployed youth with adequate and appropriate education and fitting activities and undertakings for their unoccupied time.

"There never was a time when the importance of homemaking education in both rural and urban centers was more greatly needed, or when it could better serve our state and national needs than today," writes Dr. Baylor.

Home Interests Conference

Distinctive among state conferences of homemakers is the Fourth Annual Home Interests Conference at Oregon State College, February 12-16, 1935. Each year this conference attracts both rural and city women from every part of that large state. It combines training conferences and the usual features of annual Farm and Home Weeks held in many states. Every women's organization in the state is represented. The Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, under the leadership of Mrs. William Kletzer, State President, will have a very important share in the program. Miss Claribel Nye, State Leader of Home Economics Extension, and Miss Ava B. Milam, Dean of the School of Home Economics at Oregon State College, are in charge of the conference program. Speakers include Miss Alice Sowers, specialist in Parent Education, and Miss Flora Thurston, formerly with the National Council of Parent Education and at present acting head of Child Welfare and Parent Education at Oregon State College. The program features conferences and instruction on study group organization, program, and methods, and other subjects related to homemaking and parent education.

The college will make available certain dormitories and also set aside laboratories where women may cook food which they bring from home, and every effort will be made to keep the cost low, thus enabling many people to attend. It is estimated that the cost of the week may be as low as $2.50.

Congress Radio Programs

The second quarter of the parent education radio series sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the University of Chicago begins January 3, 1935. Parent education workers are striving for a greater number of informal listening groups meeting regularly each week to listen and discuss the broadcasts. Listeners are invited to send in questions to be answered by the speaker at the close of each program.

A copy of the pamphlet containing abstracts of speeches for the first quarter, ending December 27, will be sent free to state board members who send a stamped self-addressed envelop with the request to the National Office.

Parent Education

Radio Schedule

N.B.C. RED NETWORK

Thursdays, 5:00 to 5:30 p. m., E.S.T.
Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the University of Chicago.

JANUARY 3

The School and Future Social Trends—William F. Ogburn, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago.

JANUARY 10

The Movies In and Out of School—W. W. Charters, Director, Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University.

JANUARY 17

The Radio as an Educational Agency—B. H. Darrow, Chairman of Radio Committee, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

JANUARY 24

Recent Developments in Parent Education—Alice Sowers, Specialist in Parent Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

JANUARY 31

The Influence of Neighborhoods on Children—Ernest W. Burgess, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago.

Community Recreation Urged by Chairman

"Leisure, both enforced and natural, is becoming greater instead of less," says J. W. Faust, National Chairman of Recreation. "Therefore, the importance of community recreation programs for all ages becomes more serious from the point of view of health, morals, joy, and that of conduct and character building. There is, quite naturally, a drive being made by commercial recreation organizations for this leisure time which makes it all the more imperative for us to put more thought, effort, and intelligence in trying to set up such programs in our communities. We know from sound child training that do's are better than don'ts and that more often children can be encouraged to do the right things by having them available and attractive for the doing. We know from experience in recreation programs throughout the country that children and adults will choose fine, clean, wholesome things, if they are made attractive, challenging, and interesting. People would rather be doing joyous things than sitting watching passively, as other persons perform on the stage or screen or athletic field."

News from State Branches

California Los Angeles was treated to the rare sight of 18 different parades of parent-teacher associations inaugurating the formal opening of the 1934-35 membership drive. Saturday, September 15, was officially proclaimed as Parent-Teacher Association Day by the Mayor, who, in issuing the proclamation, praised the work of the associations in school and community improvement. Radio stations throughout Los Angeles urged their listeners to "join the P. T. A.," and Sunday, September 23, was proclaimed as official P. T. A. Day in the churches, when ministers used the association's welfare work as their sermon text. A goal of 75,000 members was set by the Tenth District President, an increase of 13,000 over last year's total.

Each council paraded in its own neighborhood, featuring some individually sponsored activity. Southwest Council displayed the blue and gold colors of the P. T. A. in streamers from its cars, and an oak tree with small banners attached to its branches was an outstanding float. Their Boy Scout troup was the theme of Fremont Council's parade, while Lincoln Council boasted 22 cars, 5 floats, and an escort of state police.—Adapted from November *California Parent-Teacher.*

Hawaii A four weeks' course in writing P. T. A. publicity is being given for publicity chairmen of the 25 Oahu units of the Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers. This series of instruction will consist of four weekly lessons in the P. T. A. room at the Library of Hawaii.

Kansas Before the primary elections, local units in Kansas made inquiries of legislative candidates as to how they stood on the Four-Point Educational program, and the information thus gleaned was passed on to individual members to help them in voting.

The Four-Point program, adopted by the State Teachers Association, and indorsed by the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers, and other groups in the state, is as follows:

Redistrict the state so that the 2,187 districts with 10 pupils or less can be consolidated and made economically and educationally efficient.

Broaden the tax base so that every person will pay his share of the cost of schools as well as the other costs of government.

Abolish the 197 agencies of the state that issue teachers' certificates and grant the power to the state board of education alone.

Equalize tuition laws so that each child shall have free and equal educational opportunities.

Maryland More than 27,000 white and colored babies were included in the 1934 immunization campaign in Baltimore during October, in which the Maryland Congress cooperated with the Baltimore City Health Department. The three important phases of the P. T. A. work were: Citywide organization of health committees; instruction to members of the committees in interviewing parents of young children needing protection against diphtheria; and personal appeals to urge parents of children over six months of age to take advantage of the protection which one dose of toxoid now gives. The following points were stressed:

1. The danger of diphtheria is greatest among children over six months of age.
2. One dose of toxoid prevents diphtheria.
3. The best age to give toxoid is six months, or as soon thereafter as possible.
4. The treatment is harmless and not painful.
5. See your physician or visit a diphtheria prevention clinic in order that you may protect your child and thus protect the community.
6. Diphtheria can be prevented.

Virginia A series of three panel discussions has recently been held under the auspices of the Alexandria Parent-Teacher Council during which these subjects were discussed: (1) The Nature and Extent of Juvenile Delinquency and Crime as a Social Problem; (2) Education for Character; (3) Adult Education and Public Affairs.

Washington With the cooperation of churches and other organizations, the Seattle Council has been instrumental in eliminating beer-parlors from the vicinity of schools, in maintaining library facilities in suburban districts, and providing adequate supervision of playfields. It seeks to eliminate petty gambling devices and salacious literature, and protests the subtly designed propaganda for the promotion of sale of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes among young people.

Last year the Seattle Parent-Teacher Board for Child Welfare, with the aid of generous citizens, provided 70,000 school lunches for underprivileged children. Furthermore, 285 of these children were provided with glasses and 882 with dental service, through the cooperation of the Junior Red Cross and public-spirited members of the Dental and Optical Societies.

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A study course on the proposed Child Labor Amendment has recently been published by the National Child Labor Committee, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Price 10 cents a copy.

Free Publications

For many years the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has adhered to the policy of distributing its free publications through the state branches, not direct from the National Office. This gives the state branch a valuable contact with local units and precludes the possibility of our sending free publications to organizations which are not entitled to receive them. In order to insure quick service, local units should be instructed to direct their requests for free material to the state branch, NOT the National Office.

Founders Day

Commemorating the 38th anniversary of the founding of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, which was organized February 17, 1897, in Washington, D. C., thousands of parent-teacher associations in the United States, Hawai'i, and Alaska will join in celebrating Founders Day on February 17. Each local association on this occasion makes a gift to be used for fostering the work of the state and National Congress.

(Material for Founders Day programs may be secured from the National Office. Inclose stamped self-addressed envelop with request.)

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Mrs. William T. Bannerman, National Chairman of Legislation, represented the Congress and served as a discussion leader at the National Conference on Economic Security, called by President Roosevelt's Committe on Economic Security, in Washington, November 14.

New Pamphlets

Vocational Education and Changing Conditions (Vocational Education Bulletin No. 174). For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 15 cents.